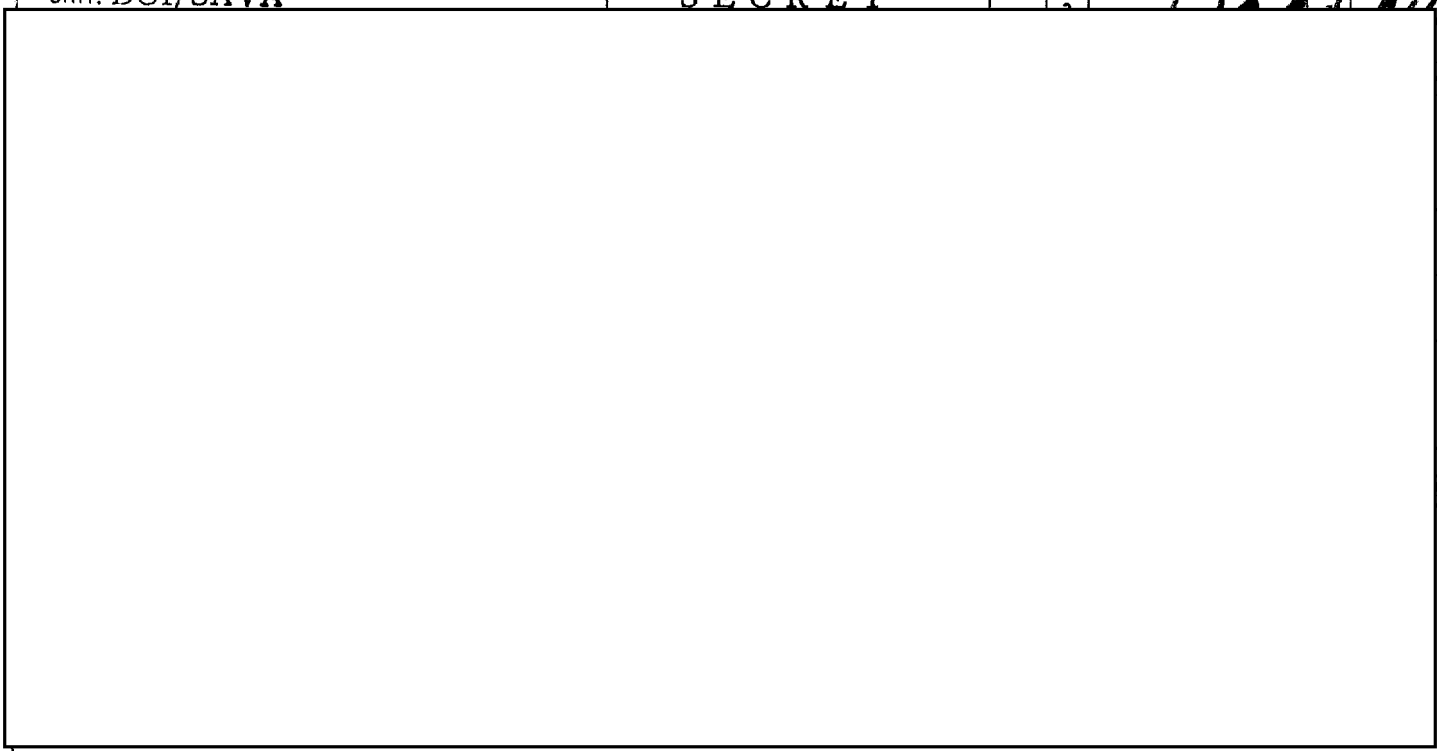


SECRET



1. THREE POINTS OF INTEREST AROSE IN [REDACTED] 11 JANUARY  
SESSION WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY PACKARD (ACTING FOR LAIRD).  
WHEN MATTER OF A-1 SQUADRON BROUGHT UP, PACKARD SAID AIR  
FORCE HAD ATTEMPTED RECLAMA OF ~~XXXX~~ SECDEF DECISION TO  
LEAVE ONE A-1 SQUADRON IN THEATER, BUT LAIRD AND PACKARD HAD  
DECIDED TO QUOTE BACK [REDACTED] POSITION UNQUOTE. AIR  
FORCE HAD BEEN GIVEN TWO OPTIONS. IT COULD PULL ONE F-4 SQUAD-  
RON OUT OF SEA (IN LIEU REMAINING A-1 ~~XXXX~~ SQUADRON) AS EVEN  
TRADE OFF OR COULD LEAVE F-4 SQUADRON IN SEA AND TAKE SQUADRON  
EQUIVALENT OUT OF ITS (AIR FORCE) HIDE SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE  
WORLD. PACKARD SAID AIR FORCE WAS ON CLEAR NOTICE THAT  
DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AND THIS POLICY ISSUE NOW CLOSED.

MESSAGE FORM  
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**SECRET**

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

☐ INDEX

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☐ RETURN TO \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH.

☐ FILE RID

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(date and time filed)

(elite)

(reference number)

(pics)

**SECRET**

CITE DIRECTOR

101038

TO

PAGE TWO

2. DURING DISCUSSION OF LAOS DEVELOPMENTS, PACKARD EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE AT PERFORMANCE OF GREEN UNITS RECENTLY INSERTED [ ] PARTICULARLY IN CONNECTION WITH BAN HOUAY SAI ACTION. MANY BROWNIE POINTS WERE SCORED IN THAT ENGAGEMENT.

(IN 240858) \*

3. PACKARD WAS SHOWN COPIES OF FVS 24, 299 (SAIGON 24400) AND FVS 24, 298 (SAIGON 24388), BOTH OF WHICH HE READ WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST (AND, IN LATTER CASE, ~~AMUSEMENT~~ AMUSEMENT). HE WAS HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY ABOUT STATION'S ABILITY TO COME UP WITH THIS KIND OF DETAILED AND HELPFUL BACKGROUND REPORTING. WELL DONE.

(IN 240805) \*\*

END OF MESSAGE

\* President Thieu's agenda for his 11 Jan. discussions with Secretary Laird.

5  
4  
3  
2  
1

William E. Nelson, C/FE

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GROUP 1

downgrading and  
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